

FACT SHEET

Who provides qualified interpreters in Ontario?

There are many organizations that provide qualified¹ interpreters to organizations across the human services. More information about these organizations is available through the map found at <..\..\interpretation service providers\interpretation services\map of service providers.htm> and in the Directory of Language Interpretation Providers at <..\..\interpretation service providers\interpretation services\Interpretation Service Providers.pdf>. The organizations can be categorized into three types. These are:

- Ontario Language Interpretation Services (OLIS)
- Non-Profit organizations
- For-Profit organizations

Ontario Language Interpretation Services Agencies

The goal of the OLIS Agencies is to enable victims of domestic violence with language barriers to access social, healthcare and legal services, and the Domestic Violence Court System. OLIS is administered by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration (MCI) and is funded by the Ontario Women's Directorate. The program is part of the Ontario government's Violence against Women Prevention Initiatives and Domestic Violence Justice Strategy. Service providers in social, legal or healthcare organizations which provide services to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking are eligible to request interpretation through OLIS for their clients free of charge. OLIS agencies also provide qualified interpreters at a cost for other agencies in the human services sector. See <http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/grantsandfunding/language.shtml> for more details on these organizations.

Non profits:

There are four non-profit agencies currently providing trained interpreter services in Ontario described in the Directory.

For-profits

There are numerous for-profit companies which provide interpretation services in Ontario. They are not included in our directory as the standards vary.

¹ Qualified refers to interpreters who are trained according to a program generally accepted as being 70 – 120 hours in duration and includes core competencies in the areas of ethics, skills and sector specific knowledge.